

and quality of life for our veterans. During this crucial time in the history of our Nation, I encourage my colleagues in Congress to do the same.

SUPPORTING DEMOCRACY IN BELARUS

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I welcome the unanimous passage of the Belarus Democracy Act, BDA, by the United States Senate last night following similar action by the House of Representatives earlier this week. As co-chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I am particularly pleased at timely adoption of this important legislation. I thank Chairman LUGAR and Senator BIDEN for their assistance in facilitating consideration of this bill by the full Senate.

Repression and stagnation have been the hallmarks of the regime of Aleksandr Lukashenka, the leader of Belarus who increasingly tightened the noose around those who express independent views. A series of fundamentally flawed elections have left Belarus without legitimate executive and parliamentary leadership. Against this backdrop, preparations are underway for parliamentary elections and a referendum later this month. The elections take place in an environment in which the regime has intensified its repression of the remaining independent media and vilification of the opposition and their supporters. Lukashenka is also seeking to manipulate the situation to extend his rule by eliminating constitutional term limits for president, possibly paving the way for him to become a "president-for-life."

As co-chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I have maintained a strong interest in Belarus and have tried to inform my Senate colleagues about the increasingly troubling developments in that strategically located country, whose 10 million people have suffered cruelty at the hands of czars, Nazis, Communists and now, Aleksandr Lukashenka. During my service on the Commission, I have met and come to know many of the courageous individuals, who often at personal risk have spoken out in support of democracy in the face of Europe's last dictatorship, including the spouses of opposition leaders and a journalist who disappeared in 1999 and 2000 because they dared speak to the truth.

Belarus, under Lukashenka, has the worst human rights record in Europe. His regime has increasingly violated basic human rights and freedoms. The goal of the Belarus Democracy Act is to help put an end to repression and human rights violations in Belarus and to promote Belarus' entry into a democratic Euro-Atlantic community of nations following years of self-imposed isolation.

The Belarus Democracy Act authorizes additional assistance for democracy-building activities such as support for NGOs, independent media, including radio broadcasting to Belarus, and

international exchanges. It also encourages free and fair parliamentary elections, which have been notably absent in Belarus and which look to be highly problematic when they are held on October 17, judging by the pre-election environment and the regime's tight control over the electoral process.

The BDA includes sense of the Congress language that would prohibit U.S. Government financing, except for humanitarian reasons and U.S. executive directors of the international financial institutions would be encouraged to vote against financial assistance to the Government of Belarus except for loans and assistance for humanitarian needs. The bill also requires a report from the President concerning the sale of delivery of weapons or weapons-related technologies from Belarus to rogue states and on the personal wealth and assets of Lukashenka.

Nearly 2 years after the introduction of the Belarus Democracy Act the situation in that country has spiraled downward. Adoption and implementation of the Belarus Democracy Act will offer hope that the current period of political, economic and social stagnation will indeed end. It shows our concrete support for the courageous individuals, non-governmental organizations, independent media and independent trade unions struggling mightily against the machine of repression. And it shows our support for the people of Belarus, who deserve a chance for a brighter future.

DISPERSAL BARRIER

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I want to thank Senator JEFFORDS from Vermont for his recognition of the situation we are facing in the Great Lakes with Asian carp. We are currently trying to keep this invasive species out of the Great Lakes ecosystem by constructing a dispersal barrier in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. It is very important that this barrier be completed soon before this destructive invasive species makes it way to the Lakes. I know that my colleague from Vermont has the same problem in Lake Champlain, and I plan to do everything I can in the next Congress to work with him to authorize and fund a dispersal barrier for Lake Champlain.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Invasive species are a problem in Lake Champlain in my home State of Vermont. The Lake Champlain ecosystem and regional economy have been seriously impacted already by invasive species, many of which dispersed to the lake from the Hudson River by way of the Champlain Canal. Eurasian Milfoil and Water chestnut have rendered much of southern Lake Champlain unusable for recreation and stripped value from waterfront properties. Hundreds of thousands of dollars each year are spent to control these plants. The sea lamprey has devastated our sport fishery, and large amounts of money are being

spent on control, with only mixed results. These are just a few species. Once here it is nearly impossible to eliminate these invaders and even marginally controlling them is hugely expensive.

Other invasive species have not yet reached Lake Champlain but have spread widely throughout the Hudson and/or Great lakes drainages. We know they are coming and must act now to keep them out. These include fish like the Asian carp, Eurasian ruff, round goby, alewife and tench. Any one of these could change the Lake Champlain ecosystem in catastrophic ways, and each is moving toward the basin. Invertebrate species such as the spiny waterflea and fish hook flea, as well as aquatic plants are also of concern.

Because of the success of the dispersal barrier in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, we are looking for a similar barrier for the Lake Champlain Canal to keep more invasive species out of Lake Champlain. A barrier will also protect the Hudson River drainage from invasive species that may arrive first from the north, like a particularly damaging fish, the tench.

We must move quickly to complete design, and to construct a dispersal barrier in the Lake Champlain Canal. Time is of essence.

Mr. VOINOVICH. I thank the Senator from Vermont and recognize that his State is facing similar problems and I pledge to work with him and the Environment and Public Works Committee to advance authorization for a Lake Champlain Canal dispersal barrier through both the Water Resources Development Act and the National Aquatic Invasive Species Act in the next Congress.

Mr. LEVIN. I would like to join my colleagues in supporting the need for the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal dispersal barrier and pledge to work with my Great Lakes colleagues and Senator JEFFORDS to address the invasive species problems in Lake Champlain through the authorization of a dispersal barrier. I also am pleased to join my colleagues in our pledge to move the National Aquatic Invasive Species Act forward in the next Congress.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

On January 25, 2001 in Washington, D.C., police arrested a 17-year-old in a gay bashing incident in the Dupont Circle area after the youth and another young man followed two men leaving a

gay bar while shouting anti-gay epithets at them. After attacking the victims, the youths fled when passerby said they had called the police.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

HONORING FAVORITE TEACHERS

Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, nearly 4,000 Minnesotans honored their favorite teacher at my Minnesota State Fair booth this summer. I would like to honor these teachers further by submitting their names to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as follows:

Lanesboro Elementary—Helen Simen; LaPorte High School—Joyce Stillwater; Las Virgenes Unified School—Larry Sandirs; Laura MacArthur Elementary School—Larry Yadowski; Le Center Elementary School—Mary Spartz; Le Center Secondary School—Erik Buckman; Le Maison D'Enfant—Cecile Gaultier, Sandrine Perigaud; Learning Center for Children (Minneapolis)—Barbara Novy; LeCenter Elementary—Elizabeth Traxler; LeCenter High School—Tony Boyer, LeRoy Edlund, Robyn Menk; Lehman Center—Heather Turngren; LeRoy High School—Barb Payne; Leroy-Ostrander High School—Norm Hansen; LeSueur Elementary—Patti Doshan, Tom Quiram, Rachel Sorenson; L'Etoile du Nord French Immersion—Laura Handley, Madam Keil, Maureen Peltier, Mary Rddad, Peggy Russel, Ms. Stevens, Tammy Trouchu; Lewiston-Altura—Julie Schneider; Liberty High Charter School—Gary Knox; Lily Lake Elementary—Laine Belter, Sally Davis, Mrs. Kocian, Mrs. Lein, Ricky Michels, Joan Teppen, Brad Utzman; Lincoln at Mann Elementary—Jane Barton, Stephanie Koenig; Lincoln Center Elementary—Gretchen Brandt, Mrs. Christenson; Lincoln Elementary (Anoka)—Mr. Dickens, Mr. Koenig, Karen Krantz, Baiying Wu; Lincoln Elementary (Elk River)—Cherly Howard, Mrs. Ostroot; Lincoln Elementary (Fairbault)—KeriJo Kilmeyer; Lincoln Elementary (Minneapolis)—Mr. Lundquist; Lincoln Elementary (White Bear Lake)—Teri Beckers, Ms. Gahm, Mr. Healy, Mary Ellen Mieux, Debbie Thiebalt; Lincoln H.I. Elementary (Hendricks)—Barbara Nelson; Lincoln High School (Esso)—Jen Hoffman; Lincoln High School (Lake City)—Becky Kearns; Lincoln High School (Thief River Falls)—Calvin Lindberg, Regina Olson; Lincoln K-8 Choice School (Rochester)—Linnea Archer, Elizabeth Koehler, Stephanie Koenig, Beth Napton; Lincoln Secondary School (Ivanhoe)—Mr. Nelson; Lindbergh Elementary—Mary Jo Schultz; Lino Lakes Elementary—Mary Jfortney; Linwood A+ Elementary School (St. Paul)—Kimberly Kroetsch; Linwood Elementary (Wyoming)—Mr. Knox, Heather Peterson, Jan Peterson, Mr. and Mrs. Urness; Litchfield High School—Gary Hein, Jo Carlson, Linda Heggedal-Hart, Keith Johnson, Greg Matthews; Little Canada Elementary—Jerene Mortensen, Barbara Schochenmaier; Little Falls High School—John Ahlin, Carolyn McGrath, Luverne Powers; Little Falls Public Schools—Anne Rebschke; Little Mountain Elementary—Lee Tracy; Living Hope Lutheran School—Nicole Dub; Lomarena Elementary (Laguna Hills, CA)—Sharon Hinds;

Long Prairie Grey Eagle Elementary—Brach Czech, Mr. Gustafson, Darlene Mareck; Longfellow Elementary (Minneapolis)—Ms. Abrahamson, Jan Nethercut; Longfellow Humanities Magnet School (St. Paul)—Ms. Filipek-Johnson; Longfellow Middle School (LaCrosse, WI)—Laurie Strand; Loring-Nicollet Alternative High School—Marin Peplinski; Los Angeles, CA—Margaret Truppi; Lourdes High School—Mr. Rhabe; Lower East Side, NY—Goldie Brown; Lucy Laney at Cleveland Park Elementary—Lisa Brown, John Cearnal, Janice Evans, Trina Mansfield, Ms. Schroeder, Opal Toy; Lutheran High School—Paul Schlif; Luverne High School—Esther Frakes, Jim Sanden; Lyle Elementary School—JoAnn Guthmiller; Lyndale Elementary—Gene Ruder; Mable Barron School, Stockton, CA—Sarah Fleutsch, Eddie Gehrke; Macalaster College—Mahnaz Kousha; Macalaster Plymouth United Church Preschool—Sue McMahan; Maddock Public Schools—Penny Leier, Madelia Elementary—Caryn Anderson; Madelia High School—Terry Arduer, Debra Nelson; Madison Elementary (Blaine)—Mr. Lungee, Jennifer Warner, Linda Anderson, Amy Neuswanger; Madison Elementary (St. Cloud)—Mr. Ellingson; Mahtomedi High School—Joy Ganyo, Shelly Mitchel; Mahtomedi Middle School—Mrs. Bigalk, Claudine Goodrich, Jennifer Och; Main Elementary (Kodiak, AK)—Diane Getten-Langfitt; Manhattan New School, NY, NY—Mindy Gerstenhaber; Mankato East High School—Bob Gospeter, James Manske, Sheri Robinson; Mankato West High School—Scott Urban, Gwen Walz, Tim Walz, Jack Bengston; Mann Elementary—Jan Dixon, Heather Long, Judy Ronnei; Maple Grove High School—Terry Caruso, Susan Hein, Larry Larson, Caroline Mullins, Jane Ruohoniemi, Jutta Schubert; Maple Grove Junior High—Doug Anderson, Amy Bradley, Mike Olson; Maple Lake East Middle School—Mark Jenzen, Dan Kraft; Maple River Central Elementary—Cathy Schroeder; Maple River High School—Susan Goecke, William O'Brian; Maplewood Middle School—Ms. Cartier, Mr. Petermen, Peter Evans, Faye Ormseth, Mrs. Willer; Maranatha Christian Academy—Tim Ford; Marcy Open Elementary—Mariann Bentz, David Bruns, Lynn M, Jay Scoggin, Nicky Sendar, Greg Krueger, Rhonda Geyette; Marine Elementary—Nancy Wisniewski; Marion W. Savage Elementary—Carl Berg, Lisa Christen, Barb Fiola; Martin County West High School—Sylvan Struck; Mary Queen of Peace—Mrs. Leider, Mrs. Nowak; Mason-Rice Elementary—Leslie Kahn Skornik; Maternity of Mary—Mrs. Babineau, Mrs. Fauskee, Gloria Ross; Math and Science Academy—Eric Kaluza, Paul Simone; Maxfield Magnet Elementary—Mrs. Fredrickson; Mayo High School—Steve Brehmer, Marilyn Thompson-Hoerl; McCluer North High School—Mary Pitilangas, Ellen Bowles; McCormick Middle School—Richard Gundlach; McGuire Junior High—Mr. Zeman; McKinley Elementary—Joe Hirte, Kathy Kollie, Gloria Steffenson; Meadow Lake Elementary—Tonya Larson, Matt Phelps; Meadowbrook Elementary—Jack Anderson, Karen Carlson, Angelette Kittrell, Steve Miller, Judy Skalicky, Sue Young, Lesley Hendrickson; Meadowvale Elementary—Darcy Doty, Amy Crocker; Meadowview Elementary—Erica Rach; Medford High School—Mr. Davis; Melrose High School—Dave Anderson; Menahga High School—Mr. Honga, Timothy Wurdock; Mendota Elementary—Deb Manthey, Julie Weisbecker; Mesabi East Elementary—Arnie Nellis, Denise Erchul; Metcalf Junior High School—Mark Challgren, John Jacobson, Steven Orth; Metro Deaf School—Lisa Ewan, Kevin Kovacs; Metro State University—Mary Kirk; Metropolitan Learning Alliance—

Stephanie Wheelock; Middleton Elementary—Liz Bergdall, Heather Bestler, Ms. Wetschka; Milaca Elementary—Randy Johnson; Milaca High School—David Dillan, Randy Zimmer, Andrea Rusk; Minniapple Montessori—Maria Malm; Minneapolis—Michelle Cambrice, Mark Hymen, Chris Jaglo, Norma Johnson, Tom Muehlbauer, Mrs. Solum, Mark Trumper, Barb Wasmoen, Nate Wayne, Ruben Wenzel; Minneapolis Community Technical College—Gregg Kubera; Minneapolis Educational Service Center—Dorothy Hoffman; Minneapolis Jewish Day School—Lori Bale, Patty Baskin, Andi Cohen, Mrs. Kaplan, Sue Norton, Julie Ziesman; Minneapolis Public School—Mary Jo Meagher, Cheryl Ryan; Minneapolis South High School—Margie Adamsick; Minnesota Business Academy—Mr. Tillman; Minnesota North Star Academy—Mandy Frederickson; Minnehaha Academy—Camella Whaley, Ms. Scholl, Mrs. Ameter, Mrs. Classen, Mr. Erickson, Carolyn Forsell, Deb Fondel, Mrs. George, Renee Hecker, Bob Noble, Naomi Peterson, Nancy Ringling, Mr. Scholl, Paulita Todhunter, Michelle Vitt; Minnesota State University, Moorhead—Sarah Smedman; Minnesota Transitions Charter School—Jennifer Struck; Minnesota Virtual Academy—Jen Ingalls; Minnesota Waldorf School—Mr. Angus, Mrs. Meany, Kirste Riehle; Minnetonka High School—Randy Nelson, Ernie Gulner, Doug Kennedy, Mrs. Pistner, Emily Rosengren, Amy Stafford, Ann Swanson, Judy Trombley; Minnetonka Middle School East—Mary Fenwick, Brian Getter, Rebbecca MacDougall, Rhonda Olson-Lundgren, Minnetonka Middle School West—Carina Grandner, Joan Julien, Paul MacKinney, Tony Mosser, Matt Sell; Minnewashta Elementary—Melanie Casiday, Chris Haun, Kathy Larson; Mission Valley—Patricia Olsen; Mississippi Creative Arts Magnet School—Ms. Erno, Judy Sheldon, Judy Ewald, Karyn Wrenshall; Moline High School—Timothy Curry; Monroe Community (St. Paul)—Kath Olson, Anna Stanek; Monroe Elementary (Brooklyn Park)—Carol Allen, Joan Campe, Mrs. Hanson, Monica Magadan, Sue Steel, Carol Allen; Monroe Elementary (North Mankato)—Sandy Hatalstaed; Montevideo High School—Charlie Breest; Montevideo Middle School—Ralph Heidorn, Mark Johnson, John Mader; Montgomery-Lonsdale Elementary—Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Wondra; Monticello District Offices—Jim Johnson; Monticello High School—Holly Herman; Monticello Middle School—Jennifer Uluen; Moorhead Junior High—Sharon Lucason; Mora High School—JoAnne Schuch; Moreland Elementary—Susan Birkoltz, Debbie Haefel, Maria Pasquerella; Morris Bye Elementary—Mrs. Holm, Nicole Huttner, Gerhardt Mahling, Aaron Olinyk, Ann Sangster, Barbara Nicholls, Besty Quist; Mosinee Middle School—Lynne Helbach; Mound Westonka High—Jim Kaeter; Mounds Park Academy—Maureen Conway, Mark Dallmann; Mounds View High School—Mavis Schwanz, Bonnie Bougie, Dan Butler, Greg Harman, Donna Johnson, Joe Keenan, Fred Kunze, John Madura, Kathy Miller, Bob Nelson, Gretchen Nessel, Philip Richardson, Ruthie Seidenkranz, Graham Wrigth, Ted Bennett, Richard Werner; Murdoch High School—Alice Peterson; Murdock Elementary—Donna Johnson; Murray County Central High School—Janet Opdahl; Murray County Central Secondary School—Dan Willadson; Murray Junior High—Billy Chan, Tim Chase, Mary Crowley, Mr. Hughes, John Krenik, Mr. Pearson; Museum Magnet—Lolita Cox, Mr. Jeffers, Flint Keller, Heather Seifert, Jennifer Keller; National American University—Tony Steblay; Nativity of Mary School—Pat Bohman, Diane Talley, Nativity of Our Lord